

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

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MPC 9/69

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ACTION EA-15

INFO OCT-01 WEA-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-12 UCF-05
RSR-01 /099 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7922

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 16878

SUBJECT: VIETNAM ATROCITY STORIES

1. AS REFLECTED IN OUR REPORTING ON LOCAL MEDIA REACTION,
WE CONTINUE TO TAKE A HEAVY POUNDING HERE ON THE VIETNAM
ATROCITY ISSUE.

2. WHILE IT IS DISTURBING TO SEE OUR LOCAL DETRACTORS RELY
SO HEAVILY ON UNBALANCED AND SENSATIONALIST AMERICAN PRESS
COVERAGE, I AM PARTICULARLY DISMAYED TO READ IN TODAY'S
PAPERS ITEMS QUOTING SENATOR KENNEDY'S REPORTED REMARKS
THAT AN ESTIMATED 250,000 SOUTH VIETNAMESE CIVILIANS
HAVE PERISHED IN THIS WAR AND THAT OF THESE A QTE GREAT
MAJORITY HAVE BEEN KILLED BY OUR FORCES. UNQTE I WOULD
APPRECIATE ANY AMMUNITION THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE
TO COUNTER THIS HIGHLY DAMAGING ALLEGATION.
KEATING

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State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file